

**WHIP 6 - PERMANENT WILDLIFE OPENING  
(FOREST OPENING)**

**FOTG Practice Code 645**

**A. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this practice is to establish a permanent opening of primarily herbaceous vegetation within woodland areas to provide food and cover benefits for early successional wildlife species.

**B. PROGRAM POLICY**

Apply this practice to woodlands.

**C. ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for cost share, this practice shall:

- Improve wildlife habitat benefits to an acceptable level.
- Prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring.
- Be maintained for the expected lifespan of the practice.
- Be included in the approved Wildlife Habitat Development Plan.

**D. COST-SHARE POLICY**

Eligible practice components for this practice shall be determined needed by NRCS and specified in an approved Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP).

Eligible Components

Land Clearing  
Minerals  
Eligible Seed  
Seedbed Preparation  
Seeding  
Shrub Seedlings

Temporary cover will be eligible under one of the following conditions: (a) determined needed until required seeds or plant stock is available; (b) needed because normal planting period for the species has passed and erosion problems may occur; (c) needed because of a soil condition such as chemical residue that will not allow establishment of cover immediately; (d) on sites subject to erosion where natural regeneration will be the established cover (B-slopes, areas subject to scour erosion).

TN517.33(a)

#### E. REQUIREMENTS

The following are requirements for this practice:

1. The seeded area shall not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock for the life of the Long-Term Agreement (AD-1154).
2. Limit cost share to the minimum minerals and seed necessary to establish adequate cover to provide wildlife habitat needs.
3. Chemicals used in performing the practice must be:
  - a. Federally, state, and locally registered.
  - b. Applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other federal or state policies and requirements.

#### F. PLANTING TIMESPAN

Planting or sowing after the WHIP Long-Term Agreement is approved by the Conservation District shall be completed within the next full planting season after the clearing activity, unless the producer can provide acceptable documentation that seed stock is not available.

#### G. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Consider other resource and environmental concerns (e.g., cultural, wetlands, etc.) as prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when establishing this practice.

#### H. PRACTICE MAINTENANCE

This practice shall be maintained without additional federal cost share for the expected lifespan of the practice. Cost share shall be refunded if either of the following applies:

1. Participant destroys the covering during its lifespan; or
2. Cover fails to provide the desired wildlife benefits during the life of the WHIP Agreement, unless the failure is caused by circumstances beyond the participant's control. Prescribed burns may be cost shared after establishment of this practice to rejuvenate native warm season grass/forb mixtures (see WHIP Prescribed Burning practice for requirements), and will not be considered a maintenance practice.

#### I. TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY

NRCS shall have technical responsibility for this practice.

TN517.D.33-1(24)

## J. SPECIFICATIONS

**Acreage Limits** Each permanent wildlife opening shall not be less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre nor more than 1.0 acre in size. Applicants are limited for cost share to 1.0 acre openings for each full 50 acres of woods within the treatment unit. Applicants may receive cost share for an opening within a woodland treatment unit of less than 50 acres, when the applicant's woodland is part of a larger off-site (>50 acres) woodland.

**Site Selection** Permanent wildlife openings are limited to slopes of 8 percent or less and nonwetland (NW) sites. Linear or block openings shall be a minimum of 50 feet wide. Circular openings shall have a minimum diameter of 120 feet.

**Approved Cover** Natural regeneration is acceptable only on B-slopes or flatter areas (slopes of 5 percent or less). With natural regeneration, cost sharing shall be available for temporary cover. Approved plant materials are listed below. Substitutions may be allowed subject to prior approval by the WHIP program leader or state biologist.

<b>Requirements</b>	Temporary cover, when required, is authorized in accordance with subparagraph D. A current soil test is strongly recommended. In the absence of a soil test, apply fertilizer materials for temporary cover, cool season plantings, and warm season plantings at the rate of 30 pounds N, 60 pounds P, and 60 pounds K per acre, and 2 tons of lime. Shrub seedlings (seedlings) do not require lime or fertilizer. Cost sharing shall be based on either a current soil test or the minimum recommendation listed above.
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**Seedbed** For conventional planting, a firm seedbed is recommended. It should be prepared by plowing and disking (or harrowing) and allowed to settle.

**Herbicides** Apply herbicides in accordance with the label for tame grass eradication or when the no-till method of planting is used.

Eligible Seeds  
or Plants

Seeding Rates  
(per acre)

Seeding Dates

Natural Regeneration

Sow Temporary Cover,  
if needed

Part 517 – Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

TN517.33(a)

<u>Eligible Seeds or Plants</u>	<u>Seeding Rates (per acre)</u>	<u>Seeding Dates</u>
<b><u>Tall Grass Mixture (Deer/Turkey)</u></b>		
Big Bluestem	1.0 lb. (PLS <u>1</u> /)	Dec. 1 – July 1
Indiangrass	1.0 lb. (PLS <u>1</u> /)	
Little Bluestem	1.0 lb. (PLS <u>1</u> /)	
Sideoats Grama	1.0 lb. (PLS <u>1</u> /)	
Switchgrass	0.5 lb. (PLS <u>1</u> /)	
Kobe/Korean Lespedeza	5.0 lbs.	
or		
Single or Mix of	1.0 lb.	
Illinois Bundleflower		
Partridge Pea		
<b><u>Short Grass Mixture (Quail/Rabbit)</u></b>		
Little Bluestem	3.0 lbs. (PLS <u>1</u> /)	Dec. 1 – July 1
Indiangrass	0.5 lb. (PLS <u>1</u> /)	
Sideoats Grama	1.0 lb. (PLS <u>1</u> /)	
Kobe/Korean Lespedeza	5.0 lbs.	
or		
Single or mix of	1.0 lb.	
Illinois Bundleflower		
Partridge Pea		
<b><u>Broadcast Planting Mixture</u></b>		
Switchgrass	8.0 lbs. (PLS <u>1</u> /)	Dec. 1 – July 1
(Cave-in-Rock, Blackwell)		
Kobe/Korean Lespedeza	5.0 lbs.	
<b><u>Dry Site Mixture</u></b>		
Red Clover	7.0 lbs.	Feb. 20 – April 1
Chicory	2.0 lbs.	Aug. 15 – Oct. 1
Crimson Clover	5.0 lbs.	
Winter Wheat	25.0 lbs.	
<b><u>Wet Site Mixture</u></b>		
Ladino Clover	4.0 lbs.	Feb. 20 – April 1
Alsike Clover	5.0 lbs.	Aug. 15 – Oct. 1
Berseem Clover	5.0 lbs.	
Winter Wheat	25.0 lbs.	
Reseeding Soybean (Quailhaven)	20.0 lbs.	Apr. 15 – June 15
Kobe Lespedeza	20.0 lbs.	Apr. 15 – June 15

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(440-V-CPM, Amend. TN12, Jan. 2005)